



COMDTINST 3161.2G
28 MAR 1988

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 3161.2G

Subj: Ocean Sounding Program

Ref: (a) Guide to Marine Observing and Reporting (DMA Pub
606)(NOTAL)
(b) Coast Guard Security Manual COMDTINST, M5500.11 (series)

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction describes the national ocean sounding program and sets forth the requirements for Coast Guard participation.
2. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. COMDTINST 3161.2F is canceled.
3. OBJECTIVE. The national ocean sounding program provides bathymetric data to the Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic/Topographic Center (DMAHTC) in support of national defense and scientific interests.
4. BACKGROUND. DMAHTC is required by statute to provide nautical charts and marine navigation data for use by all United States ships and for navigators in general. DMAHTC has overall responsibility for the collection and application of bathymetric data. Since DMAHTC does not operate ships or data collection platforms, it relies on information provided by other governmental agencies and the merchant fleet. The Coast Guard, Navy and NOAA National Ocean Service have specific missions which afford the opportunity to collect sounding data, and which are in turn served by safe and accurate navigation made possible by the national ocean sounding program.

5. DISCUSSION.

- a. Data Collection: Reference (a), which includes the Bathymetric Data Collection Priorities Chart (5103), details the DMAHTC ocean sounding program and specifies the requirements and submission format for data. The instructions in reference (a) and on chart 5103 are to be carefully followed, particularly the development and maintenance of the navigation log which accompanies the echo sounding record. Soundings are not required in coastal waters (less than 100 fathoms), lakes or estuaries. Those vessels not equipped with a precision depth recorder should use the AN/SQN-15.
- b. Classified Operations: Under certain conditions or during sensitive operations, bathymetric data may require classification. Enclosure (1), OPNAVINST S5513.5A (declassified), specifies the procedures used in classifying such data. Safeguarding of classified bathymetric data shall be carried out in accordance with reference (b).

6. PROCEDURES.

- a. Ocean Sounding Program shall be conducted while underway by Commanding Officers of WHEC, UAGB (Polar), WMEC, and WLB cutters. Data shall be submitted directly to DMAHTC in the form specified in reference (a) at the end of each major deployment (two months or longer) or at frequent intervals (quarterly) if deployments are of short duration.
- b. Annotating the Trace: Sometimes other watch requirements will interfere with annotating the echogram precisely on the hour and half hour. In such cases the echogram is to be marked during "lull" periods. It is important that the trace be marked at the beginning of the minute and that it be annotated at least twice each hour, with at least twenty minutes between any two annotations.
- c. Preparing the Echosounder for operation, the operator must be sure that the chart paper is calibrated so that the zero mark is actually zeroed, while taking into account the draft of the vessel. If this is not feasible, the echogram should be noted as such, and the draft of the vessel is to be entered at least twice daily on the record. This is especially true in shallow areas and in areas where hazards to navigation exist.

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6. ACTIONS. Area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, and unit commanding officers shall comply with the procedures of this instruction.

/s/ CLYDE E. ROBBINS
Chief, Office of Operations

Encl: (1) Unclassified pages 01-03 of Enclosure (24) to

Encl: (1) to COMDTINST 3161.2G
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OPNAVINST S5513.5A

01. IDENTIFYING DATA

ID: 054-24
SU: Oceanic Soundings
CL: U
OC: OPNAV(OP-212F); DTIC-A
CA: OPNAV(OP-02)
OD: 71-09-04
CD: 81-01-02
RD: 83-2-02

02. THREAT/BACKGROUND

- A. A proper balance is required between the need to deny information to a potential enemy and the equally important need to make available the data required to ensure our own scientific and technological advances.
- B. The specific threats against which classification of this data will defend are:
 - (1) Compromise of the operational security of units involved in certain classified operations.
 - (2) Use by hostile powers of our large data base of precise bathymetric navigation information to improve their military position vis-a-vis our own.

03. MISSION: Acquisition of precise bathymetric data and to continue mutually beneficial programs of international cooperations in the collection of bathymetric data.

04. FINANCIAL: Not applicable

05. MILESTONES: Not applicable

06. DESIGN PERFORMANCE AND FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Not applicable

07. OPERATIONAL AND TACTICAL

- A. Survey data and charts resulting from Department of Defense bathymetric surveys in support of classified operations or projects shall be classified as follows:
 - (1) Survey data based on Loran-C, satellite, SINS or comparable horizontal positioning control and conducted at a line spacing or with sonar equipments which would yield fix results using bathymetric navigation recovery techniques to within one nautical mile: C-OADR.

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- (2) Survey data based on Loran-C, or comparable horizontal positioning control and conducted at a line spacing or with sonar equipments which would yield fix results using bathymetric navigation recovery techniques to within 0.25 nautical miles: S-OADR.
- (3) Charts compiled directly from classified data shall be classified at least at the same level as the original survey data.
- (4) Precise bathymetric navigation zone charts (PBNZC), similar bathymetric products, and related information: TS-OADR.
- (5) Charts compiled from sanitized secret data (i.e., Contour interval increased, survey line spacing notations deleted, etc.) may be downgraded to confidential when the scale of the published chart is one degree of longitude equals four inches or smaller.
- (6) Sounding information which, by the detail of data and proximity to classified operating areas, could enable a potential enemy to determine the location of the operating area should be given the same classification as that assigned to the operating area. If the sounding information covers only a portion of the classified operating area and a compilation of all such data does not define the limits of the operating area more accurately than with in 30 nautical miles, then the sounding information in question should be classified one level lower than the classification of the operating area.
- (7) Any statement or inference that a particular oceanographic program exists for the sole or primary benefit of a particular user may be classified and this should be considered by managers when drafting program classification guides.
- (8) Sounding data and charts obtained from a foreign country as part of a bilateral agreement will be classified IAW the terms of the agreement.
- (9) All other sounding information, charts, collection sheets, and other means of portraying ocean depths not specifically classified above shall be

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A unclassified. This includes, but is not limited to, sounding records, echograms, collection sheets, small scale chartlets prepared for inclusion in scientific or technical papers, and similar sounding information where the method of positioning is by conventional navigational means such as piloting, navigation radar, celestial, loran, or dead reckoning.

- (10) Sounding information, as well as visual observations, and sonar contact, indicating uncharted features which are dangers to navigation shall be unclassified. Reports of such features shall be sent to the Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic Center by message and verified by mail. The verifying correspondence shall contain recorded soundings, plotted ship tracks, and any additional information that will assist in positioning and evaluating the danger. The necessity of security classification for such correspondence will be determined IAW the preceding criteria.
- (11) Sounding information obtained incident to off-shore surveys conducted for the purpose of improving standard navigational charts is normally unclassified although conducted under precise electronic control.

B. The guidance of paragraph 07A. concerning classification of bathymetry permits the use of sanitized survey data:

- (1) In unclassified charts when such information is restricted to specific contour lines of small areas which delineate potential navigational hazards to surface ships or submarines. The Oceanographer of the Navy is hereby delegated the authority to determine the extent of sanitization required in such instances.
- (2) In unclassified scientific studies when such information is limited to selected areas of particular scientific interest where one would normally expect highly detailed oceanographic surveys to be conducted, the Oceanographer of the Navy is responsible for coordinating the review of classified survey data by appropriately cleared members of the nations's scientific community and for subsequent submission of requests to the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-096DX) for declassification of survey data in-specific areas.

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08. 08. HARDWARE: Not applicable.

09. OTHER: Not applicable.

10. BRIEF JUSTIFICATION

- A. Delineation of bottom topography indicates the position of classified installations.
- B. Sounding information is associated with a classified geographic location or with a specific ship at a specific time during a classified operation.
- C. Sounding information, by its singular source or by its details, could provide to a potential enemy useful intelligence information concerning classified operations.
- D. Sounding information, by its detail or by its proximity to classified operating areas, would be of significant military value to a potential enemy for highly accurate bottom contour navigation.
- E. An agreement with another country requires classification of the data.

11. SECONDARY DISTRIBUTION: U.S. Government and their contractors.